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Committee approves Sen. George's legislation to help keep healthcare costs down

LANSING – Legislation that will help employers keep healthcare costs down is on its way to the Senate floor, said Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

“The best way to mitigate rising health care costs is by encouraging healthy behavior,” said George, who sponsored the measures. “These bills allow a company that offers its employees a wellness program to qualify for an insurance rebate.”

Senate Bills 848 and 849, approved today by the Senate Health Policy Committee, allow an insurer to offer wellness coverage. This coverage may provide for a premium rebate, or a reduction in co-payments, coinsurance or deductibles.

Approximately 25 to 30 percent of healthcare costs can be attributed to unhealthy behaviors.

Wellness coverage plans were created to be an incentive to get the insured population healthy and keep them that way, while at the same time creating a cost-saving mechanism for insurers and employers.

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